



Padre Island National Seashore
SandDollar



Friday, October 22, 2004

Superintendent

Last week the management team spent three intense days working on the next phase of the park's General Management Plan (GMP). National Park Service Policy directs that each park unit have a current GMP in place in order to guide future decision making. The "general" in GMP is a literal description in that specific actions are not planned for implementation, but parameters for the next ten years are outlined.

For example, our GMP will outline that fishing, beach driving, windsurfing, and other recreational activities are appropriate at Padre Island National Seashore, however it does not describe in detail how those activities are managed. Another good example is that a GMP will describe where and what park facilities are appropriate, but not get into site or building design considerations.

An important element of "GMPing" is that these plans do not commit the park to any specific action, but can allow for a future action if considered in the public process of the GMP. And of course, any future action is dependent upon available funding or changing circumstances.

This December a news letter is scheduled to be released and distributed to our interested public parties and partners. The newsletter will describe the current status and future schedule of the GMP process. We will be sure to have this available to all park staff as well.

Also, I want to remind everyone that there is a silent auction under way in the HQ lunch room. Proceeds from the auction will go directly to Gulf Islands National Seashore park employees who are suffering from the effects of Hurricane Ivan. There have been several suggestion box submissions recently from folks who want to do more for Gulf Island employees than just the Eastern National donation. So from this, and the initiative of Ruby Martin, we have a silent auction occurring. Additionally, anyone wishing to make a separate contribution apart from Eastern National, there will be "blue" envelopes being circulated for that purpose. Just as a reminder, any and all donations or contributions are completely voluntary and none of us should feel compelled or pressured to contribute. However, if you're so moved and want to, I think this a worthy effort to help some fellow NPS folks in trouble.

Take care of each other, this wonderful place, and think safety in all of your actions!

Colin

Colin's schedule:

Monday, 10/25 – In Brownsville

Tuesday, 10/26 – In Brownsville

Wed., 10/27 – Travel to Corpus Christi/Back in Park

Thurs., 10/28 – In the Park

Friday, 10/29 – In the Park

Safety Notes --

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe and make it a safe day.

The following safety information was submitted by Pat Donohue:

This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & Mastercard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself.

My husband was called on Wednesday from "VISA", and I was called on Thursday from "MasterCard". The scam works like this:

Person calling says, "This is <name>, and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by <name> bank. Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a marketing company based in Arizona?"

When you say "No", the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

You say "yes." The caller continues... "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1-800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control #" The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, "He needs to verify you are in possession of your card. "

He'll ask you to turn your card over and look for some numbers. There are 7 numbers the first 4 are your card number, the next 3 are

the 'Security Numbers' that verify you are in possession of the card. These are the numbers you use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say "That is correct. I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say No, the caller then Thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do" and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charge on your card.

Long story made short, we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA card, and they are reissuing us a new number. What the scammers wants is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card direct. The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement, you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or harder to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a "Jason Richardson of MasterCard" with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up!

We filed a police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening.

Please pass this on to all your friends. By informing each other, we protect each other. Thank You.

Employees Association News

Today is the last day of the Auction!!

Administration

Open season for health benefits is Nov 8 - Dec 13

www.opm.gov/insure is the website for additional information and to view the brochures/prices. The 2005 information has not been added yet.

Brochures will be distributed when/if they arrive.

There is a bill going through Washington that has to do with dental and vision for government employees. It is unknown at this time if the government will pay a portion of the premium like the health benefits or if it will be like the long term care where the employee pays the full portion.

(Please verify all information and figures listed below.)

GEHA will have 3 options to choose from this year:

high:	self \$ 89.29	family \$181.38
standard:	self \$ 33.28	family \$ 78.62
Health savings advantage	self \$ \$ 44.68	family \$103.21

GEHA's description of the health savings advantage option - combines a high deductible health plan with health savings account (HSA) that can help you build tax-advantaged savings for medical expenses and retirement. (You must be eligible for the HSA.

The prescription mail order will be Medco-by-Mail. There will be increases in the mail order prescriptions. (It may be high option prescriptions \$15, \$50 and \$60, you will need to check out the web site or view a brochure when they arrive).

Some changes to dental. You can view claims on-line.

GEHA has the 2005 brochure on their website at www.geha.com

Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Standard	self \$ 50.71	family \$118.06
Basic	self \$ 37.99	family \$ 88.99 (no change in premiums for basic)

Basic - This is almost like an HMO, you must use a doctor within the network.

-\$20 office visit and \$30 specialist visit

-No deductibles

-No charge for lab test, x-rays and other diagnostic tests billed by preferred providers

-Outpatient - \$40 (includes lab and x-rays)

-Inpatient - \$100 per day up to 5 days (\$500); inpatient \$100 per surgeon

-\$30 urgent care

-\$50 emergency room

-\$20 Dental (2 preventive exams per year)

-Prescription - NO mail order; \$10 generic, \$25, 50%

Standard - \$15 co-pay Doctor visit, \$15 yearly physical exam

-\$15 co-pay therapy (physical, speech, etc. limited to 75 visits)

-Inpatient- \$100 co-pay

-Outpatient-10% of allowable charges

-Dental benefits are limited to a fee schedule

Caremark will be used for the mail service prescription instead of Medco. All information will be transferred and all telephone numbers will remain the same. Customers should not actually know that anything has changed except for the name.

Doctor can fax prescription into Caremark. Website: www.fepblue.org

Mail Handlers	High	Self	\$151.01	family	\$296.79
	Standard	Self	\$ 45.16	family	\$ 95.64
	Consumer Option		42.25		95.75

APWU	High	Self	\$ 59.72	family	\$120.51
	consumer driven		40.89		95.23

Sixteen applications were received for the merit promotion vacancy announcement for the ranger activities position.

There were approximately 25 people that applied for the bio-tech term positions and the cert is expected any day now.

UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

Starting Nov 1st, we will be closing registration for courses 5 calendar days prior to the course. The registration close date is listed on the website under the Schedule tab for each course. If you register your

site, you will receive the signal - regardless if you have any employees participating. However, I will only be ordering enough phone bridges for those sites that have employees registered. For the remaining October TEL courses, all sites will receive the signal.

Upcoming Tel courses:

October 26-ELC Module 700-Communication Collaboration
Connection
Dec 13, 2004-1:00-3:00pm ET Retirement Planning for New
Employees

Please see My Learning Manager for more information on the following Courses:

November

Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 1): Tools for Effective Partnering
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 2): Developing and Managing Agreements for Partnerships
It is the Dose That Makes the Poison - Understanding Exposure Assessment
It is the Dose That Makes the Poison - Understanding Exposure Assessment
DEU Recertification Training (attendance required both days, same time)
Conservation at the Landscape Scale
Personal Protection Equipment
Foundations for NPS Cultural Resources Management-Module #1 (attendance required both days..same time)

December

Retirement Planning for New Employees
Bloodborne Pathogens: Breaking the Chain of Infection
Bloodborne Pathogens: Breaking the Chain of Infection

Facility Management

If anyone needs legal size paper (8 1/2 x 14) please contact Maintenance. We have a huge surplus of this size paper.

Sam and Larry will attend NPS Fundamentals at Grand Canyon National Park from 18-29 October.

Interpretation

Since September 15, six volunteers have returned to work at the park. All of them have been here previously. Ray and Lee Fields are

working as the campground until November 15. Larry and Ann Gibbs will be working for maintenance picking up trash along the shore for a few months. Tom and Maggie Winters will be digitizing the park's slide collection at the VC until November 12. On February 1, George and Mary Eggenberger are expected to return to the park until April 30. George and Mary are expert, seasoned birdwatchers and last year led a very popular birdwatching program for their entire time here.

The new InDepth section of the website will soon go on line-- hopefully within the next week or two. A few pages will still be under construction, but they will be completed before long. Everyone is welcome to review the pages once they are on line and submit any recommendations for changes or additions to Phil, preferably by e-mail.

Interp. and Resource Management are working with IMRO in an experimental project to develop a template whereby parks can add five 1.5 minute video segments to their park websites.

Buzz will return from leave on Monday, October 25.

Protection

Welcome to Thomas Burns and Tim Havens. Tom comes to PAIS from the Sierra Army Depot in California where he worked in security. He will be working at the entrance station as a Visitor Use Assistant. Tim comes to PAIS from Coronado National Memorial where he has been working as a park ranger. Prior to his service at CORO Tim worked at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, Zion National Park, and Grand Teton National Park. Both Tom and Tim will be great additions to our programs.

Congratulations to Doug Briggs who has accepted a Park Ranger position. Doug over the last year has completed an EMT course, beginning and intermediate level Spanish classes, and the National Park Service seasonal law enforcement academy in Rangely, Colorado. Prior to his employment here at PAIS Doug has worked at Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Joshua Tree National Park. Doug will start his new position in December.

The Ranger Division will be doing two fund raisers for the employee association in the next couple of weeks. Mark October 29 on your calendar for a Pizza lunch. Pizza will be sold by the slice at an extremely affordable rate so forego your brown bag and enjoy a slice or two of pizza to benefit our employee association. Then sometime early to mid November we will sponsor a repeat of last year's fabulous "Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae." Stay tuned to the SandDollar for the actual date.

There seems to be a lot of media coverage in the Coastal Bend recently about the flesh eating disease called *Vibrio Vulnificus*. Everyone who spends time in the water should inform themselves about this nasty bacterium. *Vibrio Vulnificus* can affect anyone who has an open wound that is exposed to seawater. Statistically there are about 35 cases a year in Texas with 7 fatalities. Those of us who are inclined to enjoy our Gulf waters are advised to stay out of the water if you have open wounds. If you have a cut, abrasion, or other open wound and have contact with seawater the following advice is recommended:

- Spray wounds with diluted bleach solution and wash thoroughly with anti-bacterial soap.
- Apply "bacitracin" ointment to any cuts and scrapes.
- Do not ignore pain, swelling, discoloration, fever or anything similar in the area of cuts that have been exposed to seawater. See a doctor.

Resources Management

Projects:

- We are currently working on the GMP mailing list. If you know anyone that may be interested in being added to the list, please contact Katie or Darrell. November 1.
- Friday, October 15, staff met with the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss wetland delineation of the new turtle lab, radio tower, and BIB development. The turtle lab and the radio tower fall under a nationwide permit. There will be public scoping for the BIB development project which will last 30 days. Development will impact less than 0.5 acres of wetlands and will restore more

than 14 acres of wetlands and waterflow areas. Below is a map detailing the proposed development, restoration areas, and impacted wetlands.



Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

Cynthia will attend NPS Fundamentals at Grand Canyon National Park from 18-29 October.

Donna will travel to Brownsville, Texas on 25 October. She will attend the annual Kemp's Ridley Working Group meeting on 26 October and a meeting of the Kemp's Ridley Recovery Team on 27-29 October. She will return to Corpus Christi on 29 October.

Volunteers are now conducting one patrol per week to the Mansfield Channel (in a truck) looking for stranded sea turtles.

Division staff are working on a variety of projects in the office.